

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 PPT-02 SCA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: CPAS, CU

SUBJECT: VALIDATION OF PAT HOLT PASSPORT FOR TRAVEL TO CUBA

1. REUTERS AND THE WASHINGTON POST CARRIED REPORTS JUNE 29 THAT PAT HOLT, STAFF DIRECTOR OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, HAD DEPARTED FOR CUBA THE PREVIOUS DAY WITH A PASSPORT VALIDATED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR SUCH TRAVEL.

2. THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED FOR THE JULY 1 NOON BRIEFING IN THE DEPARTMENT. (NO QUESTIONS WERE ASKED.)

QUOTE: Q: DOES MR. HOLT'S TRIP TO CUBA REPRESENT A RELAXATION IN U.S. POLICY TOWARD CUBA?

A: NO, U.S. POLICY IS UNCHANGED, AS IS U.S. POLICY ON TRAVEL TO CUBA BY AMERICAN CITIZENS. WE
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CONTINUE TO DISCOURAGE SUCH TRAVEL.

WE UNDERSTAND THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HAS SAID THAT MR. HOLT IS GOING TO CUBA ON A PURELY FACTFINDING VISIT. HIS PASSPORT WAS VALIDATED FOR THIS TRAVEL IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST OF THE COMMITTEE. FYI: QUESTIONS ON ITINERARY, TIME TO BE SPENT IN CUBA, AND WHOM HE PLANS TO SEE THERE SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE. UNQUOTE.

3. YOU MAY DRAW ON THE FOREGOING IF QUESTIONS ARE RAISED ABOUT MR. HOLT'S TRAVEL. YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE IN THIS CONNECTION THAT MR. HOLT HAS GONE TO CUBA ON BEHALF OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND IN NO WAY REPRESENTS THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE USG; AND THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S GENERAL OPPOSITION TO TRAVEL TO CUBA, WITH CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS SET FORTH BY REGULATION, IS UNCHANGED. SISCO

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